

Lamivudine

la-MI-vyoo-deen

Brand Name: Epivir



Lamivudine, also known as Epivir or 3TC, is a type of antiretroviral drug called a nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). This class of medicines blocks reverse transcriptase, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Lamivudine was approved by the FDA on November 17, 1995, for use in combination with other antiretrovirals for the treatment of HIV infection in adults and in children more than 3 months old. Although the practice has not received FDA approval, lamivudine may be used to prevent health care workers and others from getting HIV infection after they accidentally come into contact with the virus on the job. Lamivudine alone or in combination with other antiretrovirals does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

Dosage Information

Lamivudine comes in liquid and tablet form. Lamivudine is also available combined with the NRTI zidovudine (in a tablet called Combivir), and with the NRTIs abacavir and zidovudine (in a tablet called Trizivir). Lamivudine also comes in lower dose liquid and tablet forms (called Epivir-HBV) for the treatment of hepatitis B. The lower dose form of lamivudine is for individuals who have hepatitis B only. Patients who have both hepatitis B and HIV infection should not use this lower dose.

Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, this medicine can cause some unwanted effects. These effects include severe abdominal or stomach pain, or feeling of fullness; nausea; tingling, burning, numbness, or pain in the hands, arms, feet, or legs; and vomiting. Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include canker sores; ear discharge or ear swelling; redness of skin; sores, ulcers, or white spots on lips

or tongue or inside the mouth; swollen and painful spots on neck, armpit, or groin; and unusually warm skin.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), and herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Lamivudine, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Lamivudine AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Lamivudine
GlaxoSmithKline
5 Moore Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
(888) 825-5249

Epivir
GlaxoSmithKline
5 Moore Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
(888) 825-5249

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET